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5TH RE-ISSUE

BRITISH, RUSSIAN AND GERMAN INTERESTS IN THE BALKANS
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN (1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 756

11 July 40

To DIRECTOR.

1. The opinion is being spread by the press and official circles that in the near future a great event may be expected in the Mediterranean area and in the BALKANS. It is emphasised that the expected event is connected with the conflict of interests between the USSR and GERMANY on the DANUBE and in the MEDITERRANEAN. The Soviet Ambassador[1] is apparently leaving TURKEY, [8 groups unrecovered] to[a] MOSCOW.

[9 groups unrecovered].

Influential Englishmen have already declared to the MASTER[KHOZYAIN] of the METRO[ii] that they are not against the Straits being held by the USSR. The most malicious commentary on the possibility of [0% a Soviet proposal] on the Straits is made by the Labour Daily Herald. Others hope that the complexity of the situation in the BALKANS may give BRITAIN a breathing space.

2. ROTHSTEIN[ROTSHTAJN][iii] reported that [8 groups unrecovered] and NEWS....

[Continued overleaf]

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[9 groups unrecovered]

that control of the Straits should not be in the hands of a single power. It is expected that CRIPPS[iv] will put the question of [1 group unrecovered] at the next meeting. As yet there is nothing about this in the press.

3. According to the METRO, the counsellor[b] of the Turkish [1 group unrecovered] here has offered to [B% collaborate] with the local War [B% Department] [VOENNYJ DEPARTAMENT][v] in exchange for information on the USSR.

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BARCh[vi]

Notes: [a] or "in".

[b] or 'adviser'.

Comments: [i] The Soviet Ambassador to TURKEY at this time was Aleksei TEREENT'EV.

[ii] METRO: ✓ The Soviet Embassy. The MASTER of the METRO, therefore, was the Soviet Ambassador who at this time was Ivan MAISKY.

[iii] ROTHSTEIN: ✓ Andrew ROTHSTEIN, a British subject of Russian origin, who was Tass representative in LONDON 1940-1944.

[iv] CRIPPS: ✓ Sir Stafford CRIPPS was appointed British Ambassador to MOSCOW on 28th June, 1940.

[v] Local War [B% Department]: Presumably the War Office.

[vi] BARCh: Unidentified covername. LONDON addressee and signatory 3rd March 1940 - 22nd August 1940.